



Dear North Coast Watershed Stakeholders and Other Interested Public:

On behalf of the Resources Agency, I am very pleased to announce the release of the draft North Coast Watershed Assessment Program Methods Manual. The North Coast Watershed Assessment Program represents an unprecedented effort by the Resources Agency and CalEPA to establish an interagency scientific foundation for restoring watershed health and recovering salmon. The program is intended to help guide restoration, stewardship, and regulatory compliance efforts by landowners, agencies, watershed groups and other stakeholders.

The manual has been in development for the past six months by the Departments of Fish and Game, Forestry and Fire Protection, Water Resources, and Conservation (Division of Mines and Geology), and the North Coast Water Quality Control Board. It consists of a set of assessment questions that guide the program, methods for collecting and analyzing data to answer those questions, and steps for working with local landowners, watershed groups, and other stakeholders to focus and refine assessment activities in each watershed. The program will provide for additional public and scientific peer review of draft assessment products, including data, maps, and reports. The manual can be viewed through the program's website at (<http://www.ncwatershed.ca.gov/>).

To be successful, the North Coast Watershed Assessment Program must produce credible and useful information that will be used for planning, management and restoration activities that protect and improve watersheds. We ask, therefore, that you review the draft manual and give us feedback on the proposed methodology and products. We will also take comments at four public meetings (see attachment). All comments will be reviewed, summarized, and incorporated where possible into the final manual.

Please send your comments by June 1, 2001 to:

Ms. Rebecca McElvain
NCWAP Manual Comments Coordinator
North Coast Watershed Assessment Center
1487 Sandy Prairie Court, Suite A
Fortuna, CA 95540
Email address: rmcelvain@dfg.ca.gov.

Your input is critical to this program and I look forward to hearing your comments. Working together, we can ensure that this program provides a necessary step in the recovery of our North Coast rivers. If you need additional information, please contact Maria Rea, Assistant Secretary for Watershed/Salmon Restoration at 916-654-1885, or Cathy Bleier at 916-653-6598.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary D. Nichols', written in a cursive style.

Mary D. Nichols
Secretary for Resources

Attachment

Attachment

North Coast Watershed Assessment Program Public Meetings to Take Comments on the Draft Methods Manual

Purpose

To present, discuss and take comments on the draft methods manual for the North Coast Watershed Assessment Program. The manual can be viewed at http://www.ncwatershed.ca.gov/pdf/Draft_NCWAP_Manual.pdf.

Program

Participants from the Departments of Fish and Game, Forestry and Fire Protection, Water Resources, and Conservation (Division of Mines and Geology), the North Coast Water Quality Control Board, and the Institute for Fisheries Resources KRIS team will describe the assessment approach, the methods, and the products, and discuss how they expect the products to be used. UC Extension Specialists and Advisors will facilitate a question, answer, and comments session, and record this session at the meeting. They will summarize the results for publication after the meetings.

Schedule and Location

The dates and locations for the public meetings are as follows:

May 9 th :	River Lodge, 1800 Riverwalk Drive, Fortuna	7:00 - 9:30
May 10 th :	Fort Bragg Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street, Fort Bragg	7:00 - 9:30
May 15 th :	Scott Valley Grange, 7246 Quartz Valley Rd., Greenvew	8:30 - 9:30*
May 16 th :	Trinity County Library, 211 N. Main Street, Weaverville	7:00 - 9:30

There will be a demonstration of the Institute for Fisheries Resources' KRIS tool on hand an hour before each presentation.

* The presentation at the Scott Valley Grange will follow the Scott River Watershed Council's monthly meeting. For information, call Ms. Jeffy Marks at 530-467-3798.

Written Comments

The Resources Agency will also be accepting written comments up to June 1. These should be mailed to: Rebecca McElvain, North Coast Watershed Program Comments Coordinator, North Coast Watershed Assessment Center, 1487 Sandy Prairie Court, Suite A, Fortuna, CA 95540. Once all comments are received, the Agency and program staff will review comments and suggestions, revise the methodology in response to comments where possible, and provide a written summary of comments and program response. If you have additional questions, please contact Cathy Bleier (Resources Agency) at (916) 653-6598 or Russ Henly (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) at (916) 227-2659.